Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dispensing and tensioning wire from a coil, the apparatus comprising:

a frame (1) for attaching to a vehicle~~,~~;

mounting means (19), for mounting at least one coil of wire for rotation~~,~~;

a lever arm member (21) pivotally mounted with respect to the frame and having a guide (31) co-operable with the wire in use~~,~~; [[and]]

a play-out path of the wire defined between an abutment (13) of the frame and an abutment (33) carried by the lever arm member, said guide (31) and abutment (33) of the lever arm member being disposed in spaced apart relation~~,~~;

the lever arm member having a first operative position in which the respective abutments are spaced apart to allow play-out of the wire around said guide, and the lever arm member having a second operative position in which it is moveable pivotably about ~~said~~ a pivot point to cause wire to be trapped between the respective abutments~~,~~;

a third abutment, wherein the lever arm member has a third operative position in which the lever arm member is moveable pivotably about said pivot point such that the wire may be trapped between the abutment (33) and the third abutment;

wherein when the apparatus is connected to the vehicle, the wire may be played-out regardless of whether the movement of the vehicle is in a forwards or reverse direction; and

wherein one of the abutments is located between the other two abutments.

2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wire mounting means (19) is carried by the frame (1).

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the lever arm member (21) is held in its first operative position by a locking member (39) engageable

between it and the frame, disengagement of the locking member enabling the lever arm to obtain its second operative position.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein the abutment (13) carried by the frame is a fixed abutment and the abutment (33) carried by the lever arm is a moveable abutment

5. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein two spaced apart fixed abutments (13, 13') are provided with the moveable abutment (33) of the lever arm being disposed therebetween, the moveable abutment being pivotal to co-operate with one or other of the frame abutments depending upon whether the vehicle is to be operated in the forward or backward direction.

6. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein two spaced apart moveable abutments (33a, 33b) are provided carried by the lever arm with a fixed abutment (13') disposed therebetween carried by the frame.

7. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the lever arm has a bifurcated end.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the guide (27) is disposed to one side of the pivot point (35) and the abutment (33) of the lever arm member is disposed to the opposite side of the pivot point of the lever arm member.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 7~~ wherein the guide (27) and the abutment (33) of the lever arm member are disposed in spaced apart relation but to one and the same side of the pivot point.

10. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein the wire is threaded appropriately to one side or the other of the abutment according to the intended direction of movement to

tension the wire in the second operative position of the lever arm.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8~~, 9 or 10~~ wherein the abutment (33) of the lever arm is located closer to the pivot point (35) than the guide (27).

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the guide (27) and abutments (13,33) extend upwardly from a lower frame member (5, 25) of the frame or the lever arm member.

13. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein the guide and abutments extend vertically upwardly and/or perpendicularly to the lower frame member or lever arm member.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the lever arm member (21) comprises two substantially parallel arm members (23, 25) connected by the at least one abutment (33) and the guide (27).

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the guide (27) is of circular cross section.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed ~~in any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 further comprising a lower guide (29) extending beyond the aforesaid guide (27) to prevent wire from slipping off the guide.

17. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the guide comprises a pair of spaced guide members defining a further play-out path for the wire.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the pivot axis (35) for the lever arm member (21) is in a vertical plane.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1

wherein the abutments (13, 33) and guide or guides (27) are parallel to the pivot axis (35).

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the frame (1) comprises upper and lower members (3, 5) connected by inter-connecting members (7, 9, 11, 13) at least one of which comprises the frame abutment (13).

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein, in use, the lever arm member (21) is arranged to extend to one side of the frame so as to position the play-out guide to one side of the vehicle to which the apparatus is attached.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the pivot connection between the lever arm member (21) and the frame (1) is readily releasable to allow the lever arm member to be re-positioned into a non-operative transport position.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of installing wire fencing using an apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1, the method comprising:

mounting the apparatus on a vehicle,

mounting at least one coil of wire on the apparatus and threading the wire through the play-out path provided with the lever arm member locked in its first operative position, the free end of the wire being secured to a post,

the method further comprising moving the vehicle in a desired direction and a desired distance causing wire to play-out from the coil and then causing the lever arm member to adopt its second operative position and moving the vehicle further in the chosen direction by sufficient distance to actuate the clamp action of the lever arm member to inhibit play-out of wire from the coil, and thereafter continuing to move the vehicle to tension the length of wire to a sufficient degree, providing one or more securing posts for the wire and securing the wire to the one or more of the posts to maintain the tension therein.

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 7 of page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to the drawings of figures 1 to 7, an example of apparatus according to the invention is described that is designed for attaching to the three-point linkage of a tractor. The apparatus comprises a frame 1 comprising upper and lower horizontal channel members 3, 5 connected by vertical box section members 7, 9, 11, 13, one of which 13 serves as an abutment that is described further hereinafter. Uprights 7, 9, 11 are provided with respective mounting brackets 15 to be engaged by the three-point linkage of a tractor - see figures 5, 6 and 7. For other vehicle applications the mounting brackets and/or the frame will be revised accordingly. The frame [[3]]1 carries a support member 17 that in turn carries upstanding mandrels 19 to receive coils of wire netting. Three mandrels are provided in the illustrated embodiment, but this is not to be taken as limiting.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 18 of page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The frame [[3]]1 provides a mounting for a lever arm member 21. The lever arm has a first operative position in which it is mounted fixedly with respect to the frame member - either as shown in figure 3 or figure 7 and discussed further hereinafter. The lever arm member 21 comprises upper and lower members 23, 25 connected at one end by a pair of cylindrical members 27, 29 defining a wire play-out guide 31. In use, extension of the lower arm member beyond guide 27 prevents wire netting dropping downwards off the guide 27. Guide 29 is optional, but preferred. The lever arm member further comprises an abutment member 33, conveniently formed as a cylindrical member and extending between the upper and lower arm members.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 3 of page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The frame [[3]]1 of the illustrated embodiment comprises a further abutment member 13' spaced from abutment 13 and defining a slot therebetween that receives the lever arm member 21. In its position of use the abutment member 33 is positioned adjacent the abutment 13, and where the further abutment 13' is provided, it is disposed between the two abutments 13, 13'.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 8 of page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The lever arm member 21 is connected to the frame by a pivot bar 35 which defines a pivot axis for the lever arm member 21. In the preferred embodiment, the pivot bar 35 is releasable. It has a shank [[37]] that passes through aligned holes in the upper and lower members of the frame and the lever arm member. A handle 38 (only shown in figures 5 and 6) at one end of the pivot bar 35 allows it to be inserted and removed as required and abuts with the upper frame member to hold it in position. With the pivot bar [[37]]35 removed, the lever arm member can be moved into a storage position - see figure 5.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on line 16 of page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

A further releasable locking bar 39 (see figures 5, 6 and 7) is provided to secure the lever ann in a fixed position with respect to the frame. In a preferred embodiment the locking bar 39 has a shank [[41]] that passes through aligned holes in the upper and lower members of the frame and co-operates with the upper and lower members of the lever arm member to prevent it moving. Figure 3 illustrates one possible first operative position, with the lever arm fixed to define a wire play-out path between both abutments 13, 13' and the abutment 33. However, a preferred arrangement is shown in figure 7, where the lever arm is moved so that the abutment 33 contacts one of the abutments 13, 13' when in its fixed first operative position. This leaves

only one wire play-out path. The tapered end 40 to the upper and lower arm members 23, 25. The play-out path for the wire is shown at W and it will be seen that it engages the abutment 33 and the guide 27.